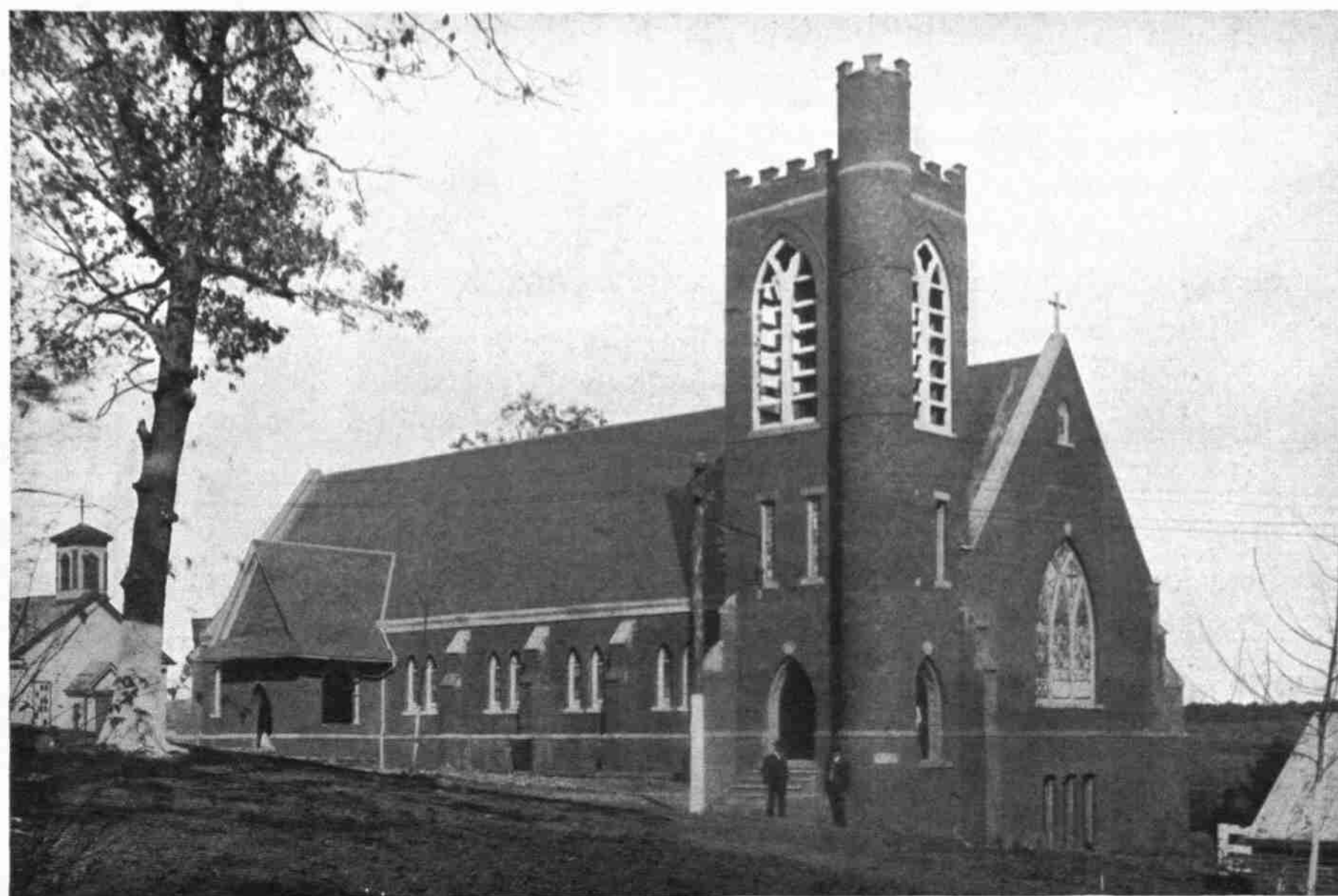


THE REV. JAMES S. RUSSELL

Founder and principal of St. Paul Normal and Industrial School. Five hundred students and 46 teachers in 1908. Annual expenses, \$50,000: secured through public subscription.



ST. PAUL NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, LAWRENCE, VA.

Founded in 1888 by Rev. James S. Russell, then in charge of St. Paul's Church. Incorporated by the General Assembly of Virginia, 1890. Now managed by a board of trustees. Protestant Episcopal. The Chapel, picture above, was erected entirely by student labor, of brick and lumber manufactured at the school.

St. Paul Normal and Industrial School, Lawrenceville, Va.

Rev. James S. Russell, Principal

IN the heart of the "Black Belt" of Virginia, which contains sixty per cent. of the Negro population of the state, is St. Paul Normal and Industrial School at Lawrenceville, the largest missionary and educational work under the auspices of the Episcopal Church, and the third largest institution of its kind in the country. Within a radius of fifty miles from the school there is a Negro population of 50,000.

To this section of Virginia there came, in the spring of 1882, Rev. James S. Russell, then a young minister fresh from his ordination to the diaconate. He came as missionary for Brunswick and Mecklenburg counties. On his twenty-fifth birthday, December 20, 1882, he took unto himself a wife, who has been very helpful to him in making the work at Lawrenceville what it is to-day.

In January, 1883, he opened a parish school in the vestry room of St. Paul's Chapel. In two years the school had out-

grown this vestry room, and it was necessary to erect a building for the accommodation of the students. Rev. Dr. Saul, of Philadelphia, very much interested in the work, furnished the greater part of the funds necessary to erect a school building of three rooms, and this was used for three years.

Mr. Russell, who for some time had realized the necessity for an industrial and normal school, to meet the needs of the large and growing Negro population of the section, decided to establish such a school, and it was opened September 24, 1888. A desirable piece of property was offered for \$1,000. This was purchased by Mr. Russell on his own responsibility, and at that time there was not a dollar in hand, nor a cent pledged. The school opened with three teachers and eight students.

Items of Progress

Principal Russell has never faltered in his work, and has received the coöperation of many friends. To-day, after twenty-one years of existence, the school has nearly thirty buildings. The rugged hills, once covered with scrubby vegetation, and seamed with deep cuts, have given place to a beautiful campus,